LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1.-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling equipment, comprising:

receiving a plurality of input real values;

providing setpoint values relating to inputs and outputs;

establishing a digital output value as a function of a comparison of at least one of the input real values with a corresponding one of the setpoint values; and

outputting the digital output value, an independence state value being applied to at least one of the setpoint values, the digital output value being established independently of the at least one input real value whose allocated setpoint value includes the independence state value, wherein the setpoint values respectively include one of the state values 1, 0 and independence state value, wherein the equipment is switched to a safety state when the input real values deviate from the corresponding setpoint values for more than a predetermined time.

9. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the reception of a plurality of input real values includes conversion of input raw values into digital input values for the further processing as input real values.

10. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the digital input values are allocated to logical input states for the further processing.

11. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claims 8, wherein a plurality of sets of setpoint values are respectively provided for an output value or set of output values.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the setpoint values are checked with a check sum at fixed time intervals, and the equipment ~~to be controlled~~ is optionally switched to a safety state.

14.-18.(Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claims 9, wherein a plurality of sets of setpoint values are respectively provided for an output value or set of output values.

20. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claims 10, wherein a plurality of sets of setpoint values are respectively provided for an output value or set of output values.

21. (Cancelled)